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OTTAWA • THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2009

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McGuinty regrets eHealth 'mistake'

CONTROVERSY Premier Dalton McGuinty says hiring Sarah Kramer to run eHealth Ontario was a "mistake" that he deeply regrets.

McGuinty yesterday distanced himself from both Kramer and her mentor Dr. Alan Hudson, head of Ontario's drive to reduce health-care wait times, and former eHealth chair.

"In hindsight it is obvious that we made a mistake," McGuinty told reporters at Northern Secondary School.

The premier, who charged Hudson with fixing the province's woeful electronic health records strategy, said his wait-times guru convinced him Kramer was the best candidate.

McGuinty emphasized he did not hear any objections to her hiring.

"Honestly, Dr. Hudson was a strong influence in all of this. I relied heavily on him," the premier said.

His comments followed a published report that the premier intervened in Kramer's appointment as CEO over the objection of senior civil servants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Relating pg 10

Celebrating gay men friends



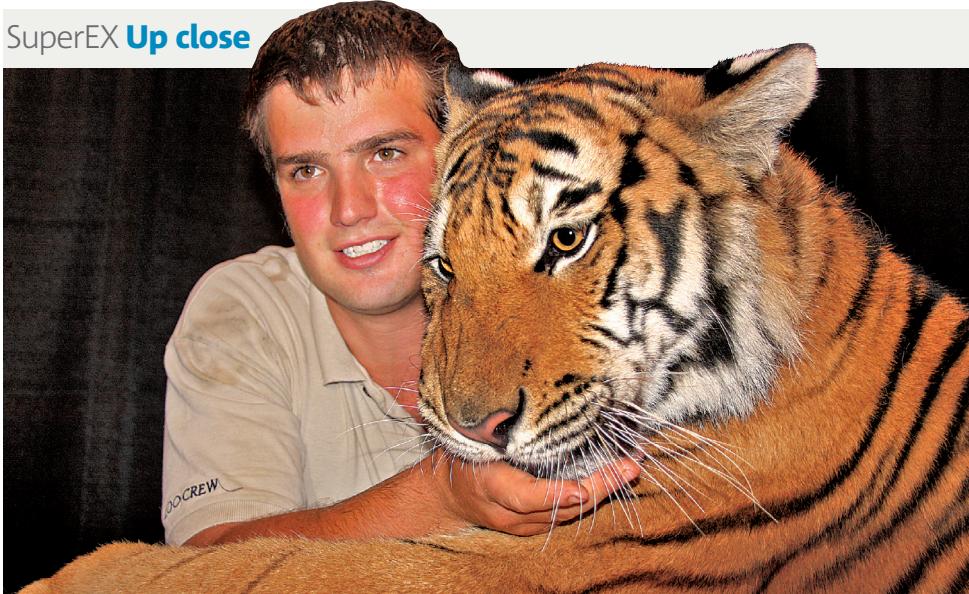
Style pg 17

Suitably dressed for fall

OTTAWA • THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2009

metronews.ca

SuperEX Up close



Bowmanville Zoo trainer Marcel Vasseur, 21, and Jonas, an 18-month-old Bengal tiger, mug for the cameras at a press conference for SuperEX yesterday. Ottawa residents will be able to get up close and personal with animals like tigers, an African lion, a jaguar and a wolf when the zoo comes to the fair at Lansdowne Park. Story, page 3.

Feds fighting flu

Tories announce nearly \$1M for pandemic planning

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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The federal government is targeting small and medium businesses with a nearly \$1-million program for H1N1 flu virus pandemic planning.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced in Ottawa yesterday the federal government would provide \$926,000 in funding to help small and medium businesses develop a plan in the event of labour shortages due to influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, during this flu season.

"While many large companies have begun to address business continuity is-

sues during a pandemic, most small and medium businesses do not have plans in place," she said.

The program will be developed by the International Centre for Infectious Disease, a Winnipeg-based not-for-profit organization that focuses on applying new technologies to

fight infections worldwide. Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones, said pandemic planning is something small businesses should be able to develop fairly easily, but every business is a little different.

One of the important

things to overcome is the stubborn North American work ethic of sick people dragging themselves to work.

"Looking at alternative ways to work, if they are well enough to work, is an

important part of the plan," he said.

Aglukkaq also chastised opposition

health critics for playing politics with H1N1 and calling a special summer session of the House of Commons health committee yesterday afternoon.

"It's disappointing that some of these questions couldn't have been raised through our weekly briefin-

gs with opposition critics," she said.

"We have gone above and beyond what is normally done," she said, adding that she has held 22 technical briefings for opposition MPs so far.

Winnipeg North New Democrat MP Judy Wasylcias-Leis said the briefings are "no substitute" for a real exchange of ideas with parliamentarians.

Aglukkaq said the impact of the virus is decreasing, with fewer people visiting doctors and a decrease in the number of outbreaks reported.

There have been 64 H1N1-linked deaths in Canada.

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Flu Outbreak



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Get ready for cries of "Opa!" and delicious, hard-to-pronounce food — Ottawa's annual Greek Festival is here.

Now in its 36th year, GreekFest — which starts this afternoon and runs through Aug. 23 — is expected to draw crowds of 80,000 to its Hog's Back Park site for traditional cuisine, dance demonstrations, music, and its famous nightly Zorba show.

"Our motto is to 'Live a day the Greek way,'" said GreekFest general manager Erin Giakoumelos. "The festival's sights, tastes and sounds are a great way to experience Greek culture and cuisine."

Giakoumelos said that while the annual festival is an opportunity for the Hellenic community in Ottawa to get together, GreekFest is open to everyone, regardless of their nationality or culture.

Along with entertainment and arrays of Greek dishes, the festival is also offering cooking demonstrations, Greek dance lessons, Greek seminars and wine tasting and a variety of children's activities. Theme days will also be a part of the 11-day festival, with an Ottawa Food Bank fundraiser, a multicultural night, and the "Night in Athens" evening.

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Local



Rights tribunal to hear complaint on Carleton ban

POSTER The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal will hear a complaint from a student group against the Carleton University administration next month in relation to a poster banned from the campus earlier this year.

Students Against Israeli Apartheid — Carleton, made the complaint after posters for Israeli Apartheid Week were removed from campus in February.

The poster shows a jet with an Israel label firing a rocket at a child holding a teddy bear.

In a statement, Carleton University said the tribunal would allow them "to respond point by point to these false claims once and for all."

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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What's online today.



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Jumpers show off at Nepean

Equestrians in public's radar after Beijing Olympic silver medal

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

Ian Millar only gets to compete in his own backyard once a year, so Canada's elder statesman of show jumping rarely misses the National Capital Show Jumping Tournament.

Even though the Perth resident was honorary chair of a new committee overseeing the event, he skipped the competition last year.

He was busy helping Team Canada win an Olympic silver medal in show jumping in China.

The experience, he said, has really raised the profile of show jumping, especially in Ottawa, which is already one of Canada's horse riding hotbeds.

"There are a lot more people aware of our sport and the riders involved. That I sure notice," said Millar, who was riding in his ninth Olympics. "You could win every grand prix there is in Canada and that wouldn't happen. It took the Olympics to make that happen."

The tournament, which started yesterday and runs



Ottawa's Victoria Seale, 15, and Boomer the horse clear a jump during the 1.3-metre junior amateur competition of the National Capital Open Show Jumping Tournament that started yesterday at the Nepean Equestrian Park.

through Aug. 23, will see some of the best show jumpers from Canada and the world at Nepean National Equestrian Park.

As Millar explains it, this weekend is kind of a national competition, before some of the top international riders come to town for the \$75,000 Brookstreet Grand Prix.

Two of Millar's team-

mates from that Olympic medal-winning team, Jill Henselwood of Oxford Mills and Mac Cone, will also be riding in the tournament.

While a difficult economy may have discouraged some riders from travelling long distances, event co-ordinator Ainsley Hayes said the tournament has around 25 per cent more entries than its inaugural year.

"Everyone who came last year had a fantastic time," she said.

Some of the proceeds from the event will benefit the United Way Ottawa and JustWorld International, which will also see proceeds from the Horseless Horse Show — a fun event where people run through the course with no horse — tomorrow evening.

Pictures aid patients in taking meds

HEALTH A CHEO doctor has led an initiative to develop a series of pictograms that help explain how medications should be taken.

The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the International Pharmaceutical Federation are offering their pictogram software — which graphically conveys to patients how medicine should be taken — for hospitals and pharmacies across North America and Europe to download free of charge.

According to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, about 26 per cent of the world's adult population is illiterate.

"We need to make it safer and easier for people all over the world, including right here in Canada, to take medicine," said CHEO's director of pharmacy Dr. Régis Vaillancourt.

"Language, education, age and even culture may impact how people interpret medical instructions. With something this critical, it is important to help reduce the possibility of mistakes," said Vaillancourt.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

SuperEX drops admission by \$2, bumps up variety

Theme days

- While there will be free admission until 5 p.m. on opening day, other special events include two-for-one admission on Aug. 21 and 28; Organ

Donor Awareness Day on Aug. 24; free admission for kids under 12 on Aug. 25; free seniors day on Aug. 26 and the apple pie contest on Aug. 27.

shows over SuperEX's 11-day run at Lansdowne Park. In addition to concerts with headliner Bedouin Soundclash and Aaron Pritchett,

there will be the Top Cop Academy High-Dive Show, and shows featuring jungle predators, birds of prey and endangered reptiles. Also

returning are the midway rides, 4-H competitions, strolling performers, the 26th annual Stars on the Rise talent show and the recreation pavilion with demonstrations, a psychic fair and huge board games.

One of the main attractions at this year's SuperEX is the Xtreme Wild show, which features a 500-pound Bengal tiger, an African lion, a jaguar, wolves and

their natural prey, including reindeer, camels and zebras from the Bowmanville Zoo. "We're going to tell the story of predators and prey," said zoo director Michael Hackenberger.

But the faint of heart don't have to worry. "We're not going to take it all the way," he said. "We're not going to show the consequences."

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Grouse Mountain to star on TV

OLYMPICS Grouse Mountain will host America's most watched morning news program during the 2010 Olympic Games.

Matt Lauer, Meredith Viera, Al Roker and Ann Curry of NBC's Today Show will be reporting live from the British Columbia ski area and tourist attraction.

It will be the four anchors' second time broadcasting from an international Olympics.

METRO CANADA

Tories fickle over who gets help abroad?

MP cites 'Orwellian jury' that decides which jailed or stranded Canadian gets aid

Advocates and lawyers for Canadian citizens who get into tight situations abroad are accusing the Conservative government of fickleness.

Tory ministers appear to choose, apparently at random, which Canadians get access to help and which ones must battle to clear their names, the critics say.

In contrast to the few citizens abroad who do get

Ottawa's ear, dozens of pleas go unanswered.

"What I find most disturbing is that Canadians are possibly being judged in absentia by an Orwellian jury comprised of the Canadian cabinet," said Liberal MP Dan McTeague.

Ottawa lawyer Yavar Hameed suggests Ottawa has an everpresent fear of being cast as a security

Three cases, three reactions

- Trade Minister Stockwell Day requested clemency for a Canadian sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia, but the government abandoned a convicted killer from Alberta sitting on death row in Montana
- Abousfian Abdelrazik, cleared of suspected al-Qaida links, needed a judge's order to bring him home from Sudan.

threat to the United States.

The most troubling government decisions inevitably involve security questions, whether of Canadian travel documents, borders or the backgrounds of some

Canadian citizens, Hameed said.

"There is this kind of interpretation that we can't do something that's going to be perceived as soft on the war on terror," he said.

He added: "I think it's very much a part of the domestic decision making process that this current government is responsible for."

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Waterfront Meet the rough 'n' tumble buskers



Members of the Calypso Tumblers perform along the Halifax waterfront yesterday. The Halifax International Busker Festival 2009 will wrap up Sunday.

OPP officer lied, hearing told

CRIME A 28-year veteran OPP officer at the centre of a justice corruption scandal met with Canada's mafia godfather and then lied about it to his superiors, it's alleged.

Mike Rutigliano made a brief appearance at a disciplinary hearing at Ontario Provincial Police headquarters yesterday to face a dis-

creditable conduct charge.

The charge relates to a 2002 meeting that Rutigliano "arranged and attended" with members of the Rizzuto crime group, it's alleged.

Rutigliano is serving a prison sentence in the U.S.

The Rutigliano case was adjourned.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

PAINT SPREE Vandals spray-painted and broke into vehicles in Calgary's northeast Temple district yesterday.

Sgt. Krista Ryan said at least nine vehicles were hit. Police think the attacks were all by "the same person or people but we also believe it was a random attack," Ryan said. Residents spent the morning cleaning.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Police have arrested one man in connection with the theft of \$73 million US worth of jewelry, considered one of the biggest heists in British history. The suspect is not one of the two men caught on a security camera. The 50-year-old man has been released on bail. **REUTERS**

World



Church voices 'mortification' over scandal

Italy's Catholic church feels "unease" and "mortification" at revelations surrounding Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the newspaper of the Italian Bishops' Conference wrote yesterday. The scandal over his private life erupted in May, when his wife announced she wanted a divorce, accusing him of "frequenting minors." Attention focused first on Berlusconi's relationship with 18-year-old model Noemi Letizia, left, to whom he gave a \$8,500 US necklace, before other women claimed to have been paid to attend his extravagant parties. One of them, Patrizia D'Addario, claimed she slept with Berlusconi.

REUTERS

Speaker rejects rape claims

More than 200 Iranian politicians want ties with West reviewed

The speaker of Iran's parliament yesterday rejected as "baseless" an opposition leader's accusation that moderates had been raped in jail following their detention in unrest linked to June's disputed presidential poll.

"Based on parliament's investigations, detainees have not been raped or sexually abused in Iran's Kahrizak and Evin prisons," Iran state television quoted Ali Larijani as saying.

Defeated moderate candidate Mehdi Karoubi said some protesters, both men and women, had been raped in prison.

IranCrisis

Many of the post-election detainees were held in south Tehran's Kahrizak prison, built to house people breaching vice laws. At least three people died in custody there.

The abuse allegations have divided hardline politicians, many of whom backed President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's re-election.

A committee set up by losing candidates Karoubi and Mir Hossein Mousavi to pursue the issue submitted a list of 69 people killed in

protests to parliament on Monday. The list contradicted the official figure of 26 deaths.

Rights group Amnesty International urged Iran to allow international observers to monitor the trials of more than 100 people accused of involvement in the protests that followed the election.

Washington, its European allies and leading Iranian reformers have rejected the mass trials as a "show."

State radio said 215 of Iran's 290 lawmakers urged Ahmadinejad to reconsider ties with the United States,

France and Britain for their "interference" in Iran's state matters.

A hardline lawmaker said Ahmadinejad was to be blamed for any possible mistreatment in prisons, adding "If we suppress people we will be destroying the system with our own hands."

Another hardline lawmaker criticized harsh methods used by security forces over the unrest. Some 4,000 people were arrested and at least 200 people remain in jail, including activists, senior moderate politicians, lawyers and journalists.

REUTERS

U.S., Afghans launch offensive

HELMAND Some 400 U.S. Marines and 100 Afghan army soldiers staged a helicopter assault yesterday in the mountains of Helmand province in Afghanistan, part of an effort to secure Taliban-held areas before Aug. 20 elections.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters in Washington the force, part of the 10,000-strong U.S. Marine Expeditionary Brigade sent to Helmand, was "engaged in a fight, they are meeting some resistance." Whitman said he had no reports of casualties.

The fighting coincided with the wounding of two Associated Press journalists embedded with a U.S. military unit in a roadside bombing late Tuesday near Kandahar.

REUTERS

California Gay marriage fight goes on



Gay couple Ethan Collings, left, and spouse Stephen Abate, hug as they celebrate their one-year wedding anniversary in West Hollywood. A California gay rights advocacy group, Equality California, said yesterday that it needed three years to build a coalition to repeal the ban on same-sex marriage in the state, creating a rift in the movement with those who want to go back to the polls next year while anger is fresh.

Newspaper pulls reporters from Chechnya after killings

MURDERS Russia's opposition Novaya Gazeta newspaper said yesterday it would pull its journalists out of Chechnya after a human rights activist and her husband were killed as part of a string of killings there.

In October 2006, the paper's investigative reporter Anna Politkovskaya, known for her criticism of pro-Moscow Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov and the Kremlin, was shot dead near her apartment in Moscow.

In the latest killings in the troubled Muslim republic, Zarema Sadulayeva, the kidnapped head of a children's charity, and her husband were found murdered in the trunk of a car in Chechnya on Tuesday.

The attack came a month after leading Chechen rights activist Natalia Estemirova was kidnapped

Right to the top?

- Rights group Memorial claims Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov is behind much of the violence in Chechnya and has accused him of ordering the July 15 killing of activist Natalia Estemirova.

and murdered by unknown assailants, triggering international outrage.

"Do these massacres mean that a co-ordinated campaign to destroy human rights advocates has been launched in Chechnya?" Novaya Gazeta said in a statement posted on its website.

While Politkovskaya's murder remains unsolved, the United States and European Union have pressed the Kremlin to ensure the prosecution of her killers.

REUTERS

News in brief

TAXES UBS AG and the U.S. and Swiss governments have agreed to settle a dispute over whether the Swiss bank should be forced to disclose the names of 52,000 wealthy American clients suspected of tax evasion. Lawyers involved in the case say the settlement could involve the disclosure to authorities of 3,000 to perhaps more than 10,000 names of American clients suspected of using offshore accounts to evade taxes. Authorities believe the 52,000 UBS clients may be hiding nearly \$15 billion US of assets.

INDIA Excessive irrigation and the unrelenting thirst of tens of millions of people are causing groundwater levels in northern

India to drop dramatically, a problem that could lead to severe water shortages, according to a study released yesterday. The problem reaches across the country's vast class divide, touching everyone from residents of elite neighborhoods where the taps regularly go dry to poor farmers in desperate need of irrigation to grow crops.

IRAN France has agreed to provide bail for Clotilde Reiss, a French teaching assistant tried in Iran on spying charges but she will not be allowed to leave the country, Iranian news agencies said yesterday. A French government spokesperson said France was doing everything it could to free Reiss.

REUTERS

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Border guards to launch Everest record bid

A team of Indian border guards will try to scale Mount Everest next month and ski down to a base camp in a world record attempt. **REUTERS**

Pakistani preachers killed in Somalia

Masked gunmen killed seven Pakistani preachers at a mosque in Somalia's Puntland region yesterday, residents and local officials said.

Puntland is a base for pirates targeting the Gulf of Aden, but has been more peaceful than the rest of the failed Horn of Africa state, which Western security agencies say is a haven for militants plotting attacks in the region and beyond.

Residents said the shooting took place after early morning prayers at the

Recent clashes

- In the latest clashes in Mogadishu, at least six people were killed as gunmen from two pro-government factions exchanged heavy weapons fire around the city's strategic K4 junction.

mosque in Galkayo town and targeted a group of 25 mostly Pakistani sheikhs who had arrived in the semi-autonomous northern region on Tuesday.

"Six Pakistanis died on the spot while another

REUTERS

Pakistani died from his injuries in the hospital. These men are Islamist preachers from Karachi, Pakistan," Galkayo chairman Hussein Abdullahi told Reuters by telephone.

"Puntland forces have now surrounded the area around the mosque to protect the other sheikhs."

Somalia has been torn by civil war since 1991, and the government of President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed controls only small pockets of the rubble-strewn capital Mogadishu.

REUTERS

UN says chief did not congratulate Ahmadinejad

CONTROVERSY The United Nations said yesterday that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon did not congratulate Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on his contested re-election, reversing a previous statement.

Asked Tuesday if Ban had sent a congratulatory letter to Ahmadinejad, UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe said "yes." But when reporters asked her for details yesterday, she said it could not be at all construed as congratulating Ahmadinejad.

"It is not accurate to refer to this as a congratulatory letter," she said, adding the UN would not release the contents of the letter.

Okabe said Ban's letter "takes advantage of the occasion of the inauguration to express the hope that Iran and the United Nations will continue to co-operate closely in addressing regional and global issues."

REUTERS

News in brief

LOCKERBIE No decision has yet been taken on whether to allow the former Libyan agent convicted of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to be released from prison and return home, the Scottish government said on yesterday. Scotland's justice minister was still considering applications for the release of Abdel Basset al Megrahi, who is 57 and has terminal prostate cancer.

CHINA The United States has chalked up a big win at the World Trade Organization against Chinese market barriers that encourage piracy of U.S. books, music and films, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk said yesterday.

REUTERS

White House A feather in his cap



U.S. President Barack Obama presents the Medal of Freedom to Joe Medicine Crow-High Bird during a ceremony in the East Room at the White House in Washington yesterday. The medal is the country's highest civilian honour.

World Bank pledges Rwanda aid

KIGALI World Bank President Robert Zoellick pledged yesterday to boost development aid to Rwanda to help rebuild the country ripped apart by genocide.

The tiny landlocked east African state is reviving its economy with spending on tourism, agriculture and mining after 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus were killed over a 100-day period in 1994.

Growth slashed

- Rwanda has been hit hard by the collapse in global trade and commodity prices after years of growth, which will likely be slashed to five per cent this year.

Reforms and new programs have turned the nation around in the 15 intervening years.

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Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

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Comment

Saluting gay boyfriends

Relating

Sofi Papamarko



have a lot of gay male friends. I'm not exactly sure how I became such a fruit fly, but it probably has to do with the fact that I enjoy being around brilliant, interesting, quirky and hilarious people. And there happen to be an inordinate number of gay men who fit the bill.

When a gay male in your life transcends the confines of ordinary friendship, they become something known as The Gay Boyfriend.

I am lucky enough to have three.

I met Ben in university,

He taught me about wine and men and crème brûlée and The Pet Shop Boys. Ben has the body of a Russian gymnast, but the eyes and smile of a mischievous child on

"When a gay male in your life transcends the confines of ordinary friendship, they become something known as The Gay Boyfriend."

I met Tony during grad school. He's smart, fun and absurdly well read. We share a fascination with French culture and a top-secret love of Evita. He is my karaoke life partner (nobody does Summer Nights like we do Summer Nights). With his artfully mussed hair and routine self-deprecation,

Tony reminds me of an anime hero who hasn't yet realized his superpower.

Last but not least is Phil, my work spouse. He makes me laugh until I cry on a regular basis and transforms the daily grind into a delight. He has a French bulldog named Francine. He sings soaring solos in a gospel choir. He has a

laugh unlike any you have ever heard. He is one of the best dudes I know.

There are several things that Gay Boyfriends offer that The Boyfriend and/or The Straight Male Platonic Friend often cannot:

1. They find sports boring and would never force you to watch a game.

2. They are more emotional and intuitive than most straight men, so they do not judge you for your occasional "girl moments."

3. They revere Madonna as a demigod (The Gay Boyfriend downloaded her new single Celebration eons before you did. For the record.)

4. They find levity and hope in the most depressing of scenarios.

5. When they pour you a drink, there is no ulterior motive.

6. They have neat shoes. Gay Boyfriends everywhere, consider this your valentine. Bless your brave, brash, jovial, generous, vibrant, filthy, fierce and utterly fabulous hearts.

You are adored.
Cue Celebration.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.



Views

Lashing out at Sudanese 'fashion police'

GlobalView

Mona Eltahawy



What would you do if you were out with friends at a coffee shop, the police arrived and arrested you all for being "indecently dressed" — you're wearing trousers — and decided your punishment was a public flogging: 40 lashes each?

Sudanese journalist Lubna Hussein went head-to-head with her country's outrageous "dress code" law in style. She insisted on a trial (10 of the women arrested with her accepted a fine and flogging), showed up in the Khartoum court wearing the very same trousers that got her arrested in the first place and — the cherry on

the cake — she sent out 500 invitations to journalists and activists to come and watch.

Dozens of women, many in trousers, and several men turned out to support Hussein and Muslim woman who were promptly tear-gassed and beaten by flogging for wearing trousers. Any trousers is sheer and far Hussein **utter nonsense ...**

Hussein's trial resumes Sept. 7.

For years the Sudanese regime had played a cheap game of flaunting its "Islamic principles" over the bodies of women. It has flogged

thousands of both Muslim women and non-Muslim southern Sudanese women for supposedly violating Islamic principles.

Many silently endured the misogyny and injustice; they were poor, socially vulnerable or ashamed. But Hussein has brilliantly used her position and clout to fight back.

She is a journalist who knows all about shaping the narrative. She was also a press officer for the United Nations, a position that could have earned her immunity from charges and a flogging, but she chose to resign and fight instead.

And most importantly she is a Muslim woman who knows that a flogging for wearing trousers is

sheer and utter nonsense — she has said she was ready to "receive (even) 40,000 lashes" if that's what it takes to abolish the indecency law.

A Sudanese friend who recently visited Khartoum told me she'd seen friends and relatives dressed in T-shirts and trousers at parties she went to without consequence, an indication the regime had turned down some of its "Islamic" zeal.

Hussein's case could be one of police gone wild, thinking they could get away with what is business as usual — teach a group of women "morals." But they didn't reckon they had to deal with a media-savvy woman, a pride to Sudan's feminist movement and women everywhere.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev called time on the country's vodka tipplers yesterday, saying alcoholism had become a "national disaster."

Medvedev said measures aimed at reducing binge drinking had not reduced alcoholism in Russia, where downing vast amounts of vodka at one sitting is an integral part of national culture.

"If I speak openly, I think that one cannot speak of any change, nothing has changed," Medvedev told a meeting of senior officials in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, according to a copy of his remarks supplied by the Kremlin.

"Alcoholism in our country is a national disaster."

Medvedev said he was shocked by official data showing the average Russian

drank 18 litres (38 pints) of pure alcohol each year.

"When you convert that into vodka bottles, it is simply mind-boggling," Medvedev said.

Doctors believe alcohol-related diseases cause around half of all deaths of Russians between the ages of 15 and 54, a key factor in dire demographic forecasts used in long-term economic growth models.

Just 40 per cent of this year's Russian school graduates are likely to live to the pension age of 55-60, according to World Health Organization figures quoted by Health Minister Tatyana Golikova.

Russia's rulers have had a love-hate relationship with vodka for decades: Happy with the vast revenues that vodka sales bring, but concerned by the social and health problems it leaves behind.

REUTERS



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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Bell, Telus merger within two years 'very likely', say analysts

A merger between Bell and Telus is looking "very likely" within the next two years, according to a report from RBC Capital Markets, CBC News Online reports. The impending launch of new cellphone companies, customers ditching their landlines, and saturation of Internet and television services are eroding growth opportunities for both companies. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Microsoft, Nokia join forces

Microsoft Corp. and Nokia announced an alliance yesterday to bring business software to smartphones to counter the dominance of Research in Motion Ltd.'s BlackBerry.

The alliance between the world's largest software company and cellphone maker means the latest versions of Microsoft's Office applications, including

Word, Excel, PowerPoint and messaging, will be available on a range of Nokia handheld devices, which make up 45 per cent of the smartphone market.

The companies, at one time fierce rivals in the mobile business, expect to offer Nokia phones running Office sometime next year.

"This is giving some of our competitors — let's

Competition

- The alliance also aims to counter Google's recent move into free online software, aimed at Microsoft's business customers, and the growing popularity of Apple's iPhone device.

spell it out, RIM — a run for their money," said Nokia executive vice-president

dent Robert Andersson, in an interview. "I don't think BlackBerry has seen the kind of competition we can provide them now."

RIM's BlackBerry created the market for mobile e-mail, and its dominant position in the corporate sector, especially in North America, has protected it from Nokia's attempts to crack the market in recent years.

REUTERS

Market rebound lifts CPP assets

PENSIONS Canada Pension Plan Investment Board said yesterday the value of its assets under management rose 10.5 per cent in its first quarter, reversing big losses in 2009, as global markets rebounded.

The CPP board, which manages Canada's nation-

al pension fund, said it had assets of \$116.6 billion at June 30, the end of the first quarter of its fiscal 2010. That's up from \$105.5 billion at its 2009 yearend in March and a sharp reversal of the 14 per cent loss in asset values in fiscal 2009.

REUTERS

Business in brief

DEFICIT Canada's trade deficit came in at a much smaller than expected \$55 million in June, but analysts said the shrinkage reflected increased energy exports and that underlying trade weakness persisted and will eat into second-quarter gross domestic product figures.

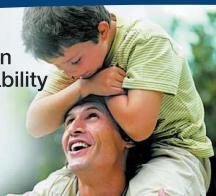
MACHINERY Fanning International, the world's largest Caterpillar equipment dealer, said yesterday its quarterly profit fell 29 per cent as the weak economy sapped demand. It said its second-quarter net income was \$47.8 million, compared with \$67.2 million a year earlier. REUTERS



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Cataracte Town Centre

The clash with a cabbie that landed Chicago Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane behind bars in his hometown of Buffalo is going before a grand jury tomorrow. The panel can then decide to bring charges or drop the case. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Looking to move up

Canadians hoping for a canoe-kayak breakthrough

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



With Lake Banook as its backdrop, Canada's sprint canoe-kayak team is hoping for a historic weekend.

Canada, represented by its largest team yet at the world championships starting today in Dartmouth, N.S., is gunning for a top-three finish in the overall team point standings and is quietly hoping to knock off either Hungary or Germany, traditionally the powerhouse nations at this event.

"One of our goals is some day to be the top (canoe-kayak) nation in the world. This is one of our opportunities to take that step."

Graham Barton, national team head coach

nities to take that step."

Canada's record 42 athletes are among the 1,000 participants from more than 70 countries on Lake Banook this weekend. It will mark the first time Canada has an athlete entered in every event. Traditionally, financial concerns and a focus on the Olympics mean smaller teams are sent to worlds.

While Hungary and Germany are usually the top two nations, Canada battles it out with countries such as Poland, Russia and Spain for the final spot on the

podium. At the worlds, Canada often finds itself in the fifth- and sixth-place range, while it placed third at the Athens Olympics in 2004 and fourth at the Beijing Games last summer.

"Our team is strong throughout," said Halifax canoeist Richard Dalton. "We're going to have chances to be in the top five or on the podium in a lot of different events."

"Our team is extremely strong and we're well able to go out and compete with those big countries."

NHL doesn't want Peddie questioned

HOCKEY The NHL is requesting that the judge in the bankruptcy proceedings of the Phoenix Coyotes reject the proposed deposition of Toronto Maple Leafs president Richard Peddie. Jim Balsillie's group wants answers about the Leafs' role in the possible relocation of the Coyotes to Hamilton.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Injury lets Nadal advance

TENNIS Rafael Nadal's first singles match after a lengthy injury layoff ended abruptly yesterday when the Spaniard's Davis Cup teammate David Ferrer retired hurt during their second-round encounter at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

With Nadal leading 4-3 in the opening set and hav-

ing just broken his opponent for the second time, Ferrer calmly walked over to the chair umpire and said he could not continue after aggravating a left knee injury.

Ferrer had shown no signs of distress and in fact had dominated stretches of the match.

REUTERS

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Fleury eyeing comeback

Theoren Fleury, left, is reportedly ready to resume his NHL career. TSN has reported on its website that Fleury will attempt a comeback at the age of 41. The native of Oxbow, Sask., hasn't played in the NHL since 2003, when he suited up for the Chicago Blackhawks. Fleury has 455 goals and 633 assists in 1,084 career NHL games.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Tiger Woods hits to the practice green yesterday in preparation for the 2009 PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. The tournament begins today.

Temper control a work in progress for Woods

GOLF Tiger Woods prides himself on being able to control every aspect of his game, apart from an occasional loose tongue.

The 14-time major champion is the most visible player of his generation on television and fans have often seen him cursing or slamming clubs after hitting a poor shot.

"It is what it is," world No. 1 Woods told reporters while preparing for today's opening round of the U.S. PGA Championship at Hazeltine National.

"Unfortunately, I do make mistakes and I hit bad shots and I say bad things at times. I don't mean to, it just comes out. It's not something I try

and do. It just happens.

"Have I been trying to get better at that? Yeah, my entire life," said Woods, who won his 70th PGA Tour title at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational Sunday.

"But it happens from time to time and I'm not the only person that does it."

REUTERS

Sports in brief

SOCCER Milan is keen to take David Beckham back on loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy in January, the England midfielder's spokesman said yesterday.

Beckham won back his place on England's national team during a loan stint at the Serie A club in the second half of last season.

REUTERS

Yankees beat Blue Jays in extra innings

MLB

Yankees 4 Blue Jays 3

Robinson Cano's RBI single to the gap in right-centre in the 11th inning was the difference as the Yankees outlasted the Blue Jays 4-3 yesterday in the finale of a three-game set.

Cano also had a solo homer for the Yankees, who have won nine of their last 10 and have taken seven straight home series. Johnny Damon also had two hits including a solo blast. Jorge Posada drove in the other run for New York.

A.J. Burnett started on the mound for New York and over six innings he gave up three runs and a season-high-tying 10 hits with a pair of walks and seven strikeouts. Chad Gaudin (1-0), making his first appearance with the Yankees, got the win after giving up one hit over the final two innings.

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Naturalizing your urban area

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When it rains, it pours. That's how it's been this summer in my part of the country. There's so much of it, it

comes sheeting off my roof, gurgling down the eavestroughs, and splash-splashing into my water barrel, which fills quickly and then overflows out onto the walk. And water, if left unsupervised, can cause a lot

of damage.

Erosion of slopes, ruts, driveway pavers loosened and undermined. Gravel washed away. And water seeping into the basement doesn't help things either. That doesn't even take in-

to consideration the larger environmental damage caused by intensive bursts of dirty urban runoff. It courses down paved streets and concrete sidewalks, picking up oil, litter and dog waste along the way, co-

alescing quickly into a torrent, and ultimately overwhelming sewers and urban water treatment capacities.

And when the urban sewage and storm water system is inundated with more water than it can handle, storm water can mix with sewage underneath the older parts of the city, and the mess can often does end up in lakes, river and oceans.

So, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that it really does make sense to reduce the amount of water that flows into city sewers.

But how might the average urban dweller do this? For one, by naturalizing the urban space. That way, water that falls can actually be absorbed by the earth in your little space, rather than rushing down various impermeable urban surfaces, such as concrete and pavement.

When you naturalize, you are trying to recreate the natural system that softens the effects of intense rainfall. This means you want to mimic a forest where the rain filters through the canopy created by tall trees, falling much more gently and gradually onto the bushes and younger trees below. Then, it is absorbed slowly into the soil through the network of low-growing vegetation.

Of course, you live in an urban environment, not a forest, but here are some ways to mimic it.

- **MINIMIZE IMPERMEABLE SURFACING:** Use eco-friendly pavers or wooden or recycled material decking that allows water to drain through instead of running off. Or, rather than paving over the whole driveway, consider the old-fashioned two-track method with vegetation in the middle. Or make sidewalks narrower if you are redoing them.

- **PLANTING:** When you plant, use a tri-level canopy approach, if possible, to soften rainfall and allow gradual absorption of water.

- **SOIL:** If you've got soil with a high clay content, augment it with sand and organic material. Well-balanced soils absorb water much more readily than clay-rich soils, which drain water very slowly.

- **EAVES:** Disconnect your eavestrough to reduce water going into city sewers as runoff.

- **LAST BUT NOT LEAST, USE LESS WATER EVERY DAY**



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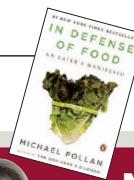


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In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Michael Pollan remains at the top of the bestseller's list for cookbooks on Amazon.ca. Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite was second and Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously was third. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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Food

Shop for plums with good colour; a full, smooth, relatively heavy feel; and a distinctively "plummy," sweet fragrance.

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EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell



Just can't beat a good G & T

discovered cocktails during my university days and worked my way through a series of mixed drink phases.

I started with martinis (too boozy), moved on to brown cows (too rich), dabbled in Caesars (still do once in a while), but lingered the longest with the good old gin and tonic.

It's been years since I had a proper G & T so it was a kick to rediscover the classic warm weather tipple this summer during a tasting of a variety of the clear juniper berry-based spirits.

Unlike vodka, the personality of each gin is defined by how it combines juniper with its own unique mix of botanicals. One of the most original of the group I tried was **Hendrick's Gin (\$41.95 - \$41.99)** from Scotland.

Not only does its bottle set it apart from the pack (it looks like it would have held medicine a few centuries ago); its combination of ingredients is enhanced by the infusion of mashed cucumber and the oil pressed from Bulgarian rose petals.

Tasty enough to drink over ice without the tonic, the addition of the bitter, bubbly water releases some major aromatics that had me pining for a full glass and a hot, lazy afternoon.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.



Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Bottoms up for plum cake

But before dessert, try a whole new twist on burgers



Pickerel Burger with Warm Onions

MAKES 4 SERVINGS

PREP TIME: 22 MINUTES

COOK TIME: 21 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb (500 g) boneless skinless pickerel fillets
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 2 tsp (10 ml) each chopped capers and lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and pepper
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) cornmeal
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable oil
- 4 hamburger buns

Warm onions:

Food In brief



PERFECT PLUMS

There are many varieties of plums, some sweet and some acidic. Prune plums and damson plums – both best suited for cooking – star in this delicious recipe.

- Oval purple prune plums have deep flavour. Damson plums are similar looking but much smaller than the purple. Damson plums are extremely tart and are used mostly in cooking and preserves.
- To ripen, keep plums at room temperature, out of direct sun, until skin yields slightly to gentle pressure.
- Ripe plums should be stored in single layer in refrigerator for up to 5 days. Rinse off fruit just before using.
- As a guide, 3 to 6 prune plums equal 1 lb (500 g). A 3 L basket contains about 5 lb (2.2 kg).

CANADIANLIVING.COM

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each vegetable oil and mustard seeds
- 1 sweet onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) cider vinegar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) packed brown sugar

METHOD:

Bake pickerel on foil-lined baking sheet in 350°F (180°C) oven until fish flakes easily when tested, about 15 minutes. Pat dry and let cool.

In bowl, flake fish with fork; mix in flour, egg, onion, capers, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Shape into 4 patties; refrigerate for 10 minutes. Coat patties in cornmeal.

Warm onions: Meanwhile, in skillet, heat oil over medium heat; cook mustard seeds and onion until softened, 3 minutes. Add vinegar and sugar; cook until evaporated, 5 minutes.

In clean skillet, heat oil over medium heat; fry burgers, turning once, until golden, about 6 minutes. Serve on buns along with onions.

Plum Upside-Down Cake

Sliced plums in a butter-scotch sauce top this tender cake. Spelt flour, an ancient cereal grain, gives it a nutty hint.

MAKES 9 SERVINGS



Plum Upside-Down Cake

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 oz (375 g) large firm ripe prune or purple plums (3 to 6 plums)
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) packed brown sugar
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter, melted

Cake:

- 2/3 cup (150 ml) butter, softened
- 1 cup (250 ml) packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp (5 ml) grated orange rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) spelt flour
- 2 tsp (10 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) cinnamon
- Pinch each nutmeg and salt
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) milk

METHOD:

Halve and pit plums. Cut each into 6 wedges; set aside. In bowl, whisk sugar with butter until combined. Spread in greased 8-inch (2 L) square metal cake pan; decoratively cover with plums.

Cake: In large bowl, beat butter with sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time. Beat in orange rind and vanilla.

In separate bowl, whisk together all-purpose and spelt flours, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg

and salt. Stir into butter mixture alternately with milk, making 3 additions of dry ingredients and 2 of milk. Spoon over plums, smoothing top.

Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until golden and cake tester inserted in centre comes out clean, about 55 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack for 10 minutes. Run knife around edges

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It's funny looking ... and delicious
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Ricardo every single night

Celebrity chef offers recipe solutions for all your entertaining needs

Often called "Quebec's answer to Jamie Oliver," Ricardo has made quite an impact on Canadian audiences with his hit show *Ricardo & Friends on Food Network Canada* and his book *Weekend Cooking*.

In his book Ricardo: Meals for Every Occasion, he shares his fail-proof meal plans and mouthwatering yet simple recipes, which have helped get him out of many entertaining-related binds.

Whether you're having the boss over for dinner, hosting the guys on poker night, or making the perfect brunch for overnight guests, Ricardo helps takes the intimidation factor out of entertaining. By grouping the recipes into sections according to the occasion, Ricardo makes sure you have a choice of surefire ways to suit any entertaining need.

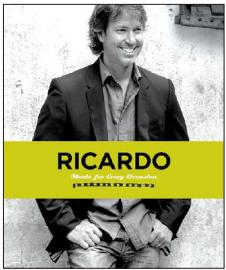
Metro nabbed this satisfying burger from Ricardo: Meals for Every Occasion (Whitecap, 2009) to sink

your teeth into. Great for the barbecue.

American-Style Double Cheeseburgers

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup (180 ml) mayonnaise
 - 1/4 cup (60 ml) finely chopped onion
 - 1 Tbsp (15 ml) store-bought French salad dressing (orange coloured)
 - 1 Tbsp (15 ml) sweet relish
 - 1 Tbsp (15 ml) finely chopped dill pickle
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) brown sugar
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) ketchup
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) white vinegar
 - Salt and pepper
- Cheeseburgers:**
- 4 hamburger buns
 - 1 1/2 lb (675 g) lean ground beef
 - 4 slices orange processed cheese
 - Sliced sandwich pickles



These American-Style Double Cheeseburgers are from Ricardo: Meals for Every Occasion.

• Chopped iceberg lettuce

METHOD:

Sauce:
In a bowl, combine all the ingredients. Season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate.

Cheeseburgers:

Preheat the barbecue, setting the burners to high.

Using a bread knife, slice the top halves of the ham-

burger buns in half. Set aside.

Shape the meat into 8 large but very thin patties. Tip: Place the patties between sheets of plastic wrap and flatten by sliding your hand over the top layer.

Grill the patties until well-done, about 3 minutes per side. Season with salt and pepper. Place the

cheese slices on 4 of the patties for the last minute of cooking. Toast the buns.

Assembly:

Spread sauce on the bun bottoms. Lay 1 plain patty on each bun bottom. Garnish with pickle slices. Cover with the bun middles. Spread with sauce and garnish with lettuce. Top with the remaining patties and the bun tops.

Local Savour

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On the web



- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her **Global Peasant** blog.
- Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of Tu-na Tartar.

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Style

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

THE SUIT

Modern power dressing

ADVICE Choose a tailored, single- or double-breasted style in matte or shiny menswear fabrics, such as flannel, tweed or wool. The silhouette should be a classic cut with a sharp, defined shoulder.

HOW TO WEAR IT Reinventing the suit just got easy: Slip on a classic turtleneck and top it off with a luxe fur wrap. Sexy ankle boots finish the look.

PETITE



Stretch-wool blazer and pants (\$240 and \$124, at Banana Republic)

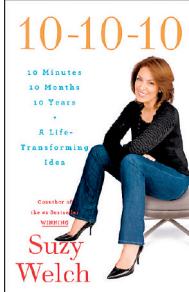
Polyester and viscose blazer and skirt, RW&CO. (\$88 and \$48, rw-co.com)

SLIM



Polyester and rayon blazer and skirt, Fullcircle (\$195 and \$125, 1-866-240-2808)

SUZY SAYS



Poor career and personal choices landed Suzy Welch, the author of *10-10-10*, in a situation where, at 41, the divorced mother of four found herself on the firing line when her boss at the *Harvard Business Review* told her "You. Will. Never. Work. Again." During a disastrous business trip, Welch developed a decision-making tool she calls "10-10-10." "It's deceptively simple," she says. "Simply dreaming about the future can lead you into a black hole." Her formula is this: For any decision, ask yourself what the outcome of your choice would be in the next 10 minutes, the next 10 months and the next 10 years. The first two are usually easy; the last is the hardest, but you have to work with the info you have at hand.



Ojon Rub-Out Dry Cleansing Powder (\$27).



DRY CLEANING

"Dry shampoo is a great way to prolong a blow-dry," says Beni Sicilia, artistic director at The Blowdry Lounge in Toronto, "but it won't work miracles. You can't go to hot yoga and then use dry shampoo and expect it to work." Sicilia suggests applying it a day after your blowout, or when the hair starts to stick together at the roots. "Women tend to overuse it, and then it can look powdery," he says. "You really only need a touch of it at the roots."

More family drama

Emily VanCamp braces herself for another round with the Walkers

By NOREEN FLANAGAN
Executive Editor

Even Emily VanCamp has trouble keeping up with the various dramas unfolding in the famously flawed Walker family on the popular ABC drama *Brothers and Sisters*. The 23-year-old actress from Port Perry, Ont., plays Rebecca, a young woman who was initially thought to be the love child of William Walker and his secret mistress. Shortly after DNA disproved that, she fell in love with Justin — a man she thought was her half-brother. By the close of the third season, the two were engaged. Phew!

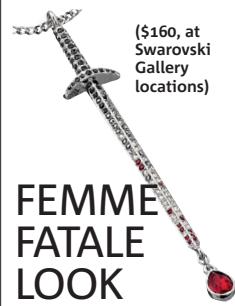
"Rebecca has a history of acting out and being



very extreme," says VanCamp. "By the end of last season, she had calmed down a bit, but we'll see a shift. There's a big twist to the story, but I'm not allowed to say what it is!" Although she has lived and breathed her character for the past few years, Van-

Camp says that she's nothing like Rebecca. "You can't let your characters bleed into your own life," she says laughing. "That said, I think that the one character closest to me was Amy on *Everwood*. I was very connected to her emotionally."

Editors' Pick



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Amy Winehouse's life could be turned into a musical. The troubled singer's brother Alex Winehouse believes a stage production focusing on their battle with drink, drugs and her failed marriage to Blake Fielder-Civil is a serious possibility. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



GETTY IMAGES

Phish ready to deliver new album

MUSIC Reunited jam band Phish will release Joy, its eleventh studio album and first in five years, on Sept. 8, the band has announced on its website.

On Joy, recorded earlier this year at Chung King Studios in New York, the group joins forces with producer Steve Lillywhite for 10 new songs, many of which were debuted live during the band's return to the stage this spring and summer.

Fans who had the opportunity to catch Phish during their first proper comeback tour got a taste of nine new tunes, when they showcased swinging blues riffs on Kill Devil Hills, interplays between guitarist Trey Anastasio and pianist Page McConnell during Ocelot and the long, winding, jam-friendly Light. Only I've Been Around has yet to make its live debut.

In addition to a CD, Phish is selling a limited-edition Joy Box, a deluxe package available exclusively on the band's own website, Phish Dry Goods.

REUTERS

Dan Mangan

Album: Nice, Nice, Very Nice
Label: File Under: Music
Rating: ½

VANCOUVER'S DAN MANGAN

has quietly been building a name for himself since releasing his debut in 2007, but expect the chatter to increase in volume with this new release. If you like The Weakerthans or early Hawksley Workman, you'll love this record. It's all well crafted singer-songwriter stuff with impressive range. Mangan is able to move from the incredibly infectious sing-a-long Robots to the sensitive John K. Samson-ish The Indie Queens are Waiting with ease. If anything, he sounds a little too much like some of his influences, but with such strong material no one will care.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Gloriana

Album: Gloriana
Label: Emblem/Warner
Rating:

JUST WHAT NASHVILLE

needed — four fresh-faced kids who sing sweet harmonies and fill out their jeans real fine. Two girls and two guys. The guys, of course, hap-



pen to be brothers (from Utica, N.Y., no less). The girls, of course, are both gorgeous. Not that this is a formula band. We're quite prepared to accept the explanation that they all met up in a bar one night and ... well. With the help of Matchbox 20 producer Matt Serletic, they've put out a rather pleasing country/pop album that at times sounds eerily close to Rumours-era Fleetwood Mac (there were two girls and three guys in that band which, of course, only caused trouble). Although, it tends toward saccharine at times, the music on this debut CD is hard to dislike. It would be nice to hear more songs from the group members. The one track written by them, Time To Let Me Go, happens to be one of the strongest on the CD.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

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Striptease

Channing Tatum used to be a stripper. A sexy video of the then-18-year-old G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra star performing a striptease in a Florida nightclub has been leaked online. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

★★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★ GOOD; ★★ FAIR; ★ POOR

Dan Mangan makes nice



Vancouver's Dan Mangan displays impressive range on his sophomore album *Nice, Nice, Very Nice*.

Mindy Smith

Album: Stupid Love
Label: Vanguard
Rating:

MINDY SMITH

IS a Long Island, N.Y., singer-songwriter who a few years back looked ready to become the next "alt-country" queen with her well-received cover of Dolly Parton's Jolene. On her new CD, Mindy dodges the "roots" bullet by moving her music into — excuse the terminology — the upscale environs of "adult-alternative." To Canadians, that means a sound uncannily like our own Kathleen Edwards, which is a very good thing indeed. Ironically, it was Edwards who, not too many years ago, was unfairly being touted as the next alt-country queen, a



Canadian version of Lucinda Williams. It's nice that the Americans have finally come up with someone who can be compared with Kathleen Edwards. But great songwriting is what it is, defying categorization and deserving an audience.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Black Mold

Album: Snow Blindness
is Crystal Antz
Label: Flemish Eye
Rating:



IT'S RARE THAT an artist is as celebrated as much for his passionate folk tunes as he is for his ambient musical soundscapes, but that's what's happened to Calgary's Chad VanGaalen. His last album leaned more towards the former than the latter, so

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

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Another Flowers child

Brandon Flowers has become a father for the second time. The Killers rocker and his wife Tana welcomed their second son Gunner into the world last week, and mother and baby are both doing well. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



Kudrow gets serious in Bandslam

But actress says she prefers to work — and live — on the flakier side

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News



Ask Friends veteran Lisa Kudrow how she prepared for her role in Bandslam, and the subject of Rock Band — the omnipresent and much-loved video game — immediately comes up.

"Rock Band? Oh honey, I got it. We played it. It's done. It's over," she says without hesitation.

"Did I just say 'Oh honey'? Where am I from?"

That's the brand of Kudrow humour that has carried the veteran actress through dozens of supporting roles. Despite what you might think, she'd much rather play second fiddle than take centre stage.

"The hardest times I've had are when I've had to be a romantic figure," she says, noting that pri-

mary characters often have the burden of achieving universal likeability while supporting characters can get away with being a bit weird.

"For me, it's such a challenge to make someone who is potentially really unlikeable, likeable. I have a lot of fun with that."

For her turn in Bandslam,

Kudrow plays the protective mom to a teenager making

his way at a new school — a sobering contrast to some of actress' ditzier characters. Kudrow credits her spacier characters for her success and that makes sense, since

her roles as Ursula in *Mad About You* and as Phoebe in *Friends* are what made her a star — but being flaky also helped

her cope with success. "I used to be very, very serious about things and it really made me let go of a lot of things, to be honest with you. It helps because you know, you're not a threat when you're stupid," she says. "You know how people say that smart women aren't that likeable? I honestly do think it's true."

What about Oprah, we ask? "You make a good point," the star admits. "I guess it's just me. I have trouble with people."

Downtown Girls, Idiots on new MTV lineup

TELEVISION MTV has green-lighted a slate of scripted and reality series and has renewed three freshman shows. The network said it has ordered the new series *Downtown Girls*, *Mega-drive*, the Ashton Kutcher-produced *American Idiots*, the scripted comedy *Hard Times* and an untitled comedy/variety project starring Rob Hoffman.

On the renewal front, the freshmen *She Really Going Out With Him?* — inspired by the site *Hot Chicks With Douchebags* — and *Silent Library*, based on a Japanese game show, have each been picked up for 20 episodes. *Teen Cribs*, an offshoot of the network's venerable series *MTV Cribs*, has been picked up for 40 episodes.

Hard Times, which has a 12-episode order, marks the first single-camera comedy series for MTV and the first scripted series order under the current revamping of the MTV brand. "We're really serious about giving our viewers new and diversified MTV," president of programming Tony DiSanto said, describing *Hard Times* as "Superbad for MTV."

REUTERS

Bandslam opens in theatres tomorrow



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20 entertainment



Jack Huston has been cast in The Twilight Saga: Eclipse. Huston will play Royce King II, a human who lived during the Great Depression. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Idol life ain't all glitz, glamour

About halfway through a demanding 52-date North American tour with the other top-10 American Idol finalists, runner-up Adam Lambert exudes a kind of golly-gee lucky-me attitude.

It isn't easy. Travelling mostly by bus — actually three buses, one for the guys, one for the gals and one for the band — the 27-year-old Californian admits the hit-and-run touring schedule is taking its toll. "It is a bit tiring but it's definitely worth it. Any time I feel a little bit tired when I get onto the stage for my set, I'm immediately charged up by the audience," Lambert said.

"The audiences have been so positive and passionate about what we do and they definitely make you forget about being tired when you get out there," he added.

Back when Lambert toured back in 2005 with the first North American tour of the Broadway hit *Wicked*, he got to spent extended periods of time in each city.

This tour, which hits

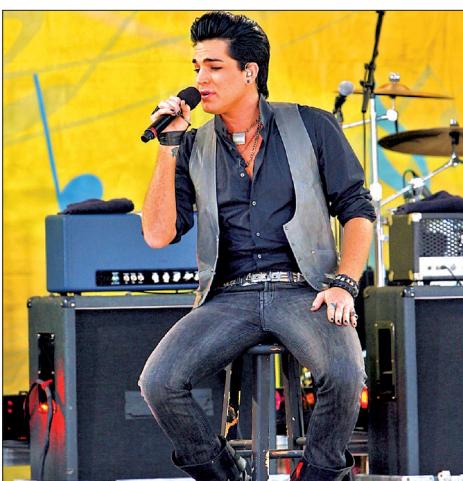
Hamilton, Ont., on Friday is, well, "different," he said.

"There's 11 of us on one bus and the bus is not that large so it's definitely close quarters. It's a good thing that we all get along as well as we do," Lambert said. "It's a lot of work but ... we're all goofy together, we make each other laugh. The food is not great, I'll be honest with you ... but you live with it."

Down time is virtually non-existent, though Lambert got to spend four hours recently in the tony Washington, D.C. suburb of Georgetown, wearing dark glasses and a trucker hat to retain his anonymity.

But the mascara-wearing, flamboyant, "out" star of Season 8, is looking to a future of touring as a performer and this one, as gruelling as it is, amounts to good practice.

"This is the first time I've gone from city to city, like, daily. So it's definitely learning experience and it's a kind of initiation for all of us for the rest of our careers, I think," Lambert



ANDREW WALKER/GTY IMAGES

American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert exudes a lucky-me attitude, despite a hit-and-run touring schedule.

said.

In addition to the touring, there's also requests for interviews for the guy who became a unwitting poster boy for gay empowerment, which included a June cover story in Rolling Stone magazine.

"I'm trying to be a singer, not a civil-rights

leader," Lambert told the magazine.

But the tour has been a positive experience, he noted.

"I've met a lot of fans both before and after the show, people that you wouldn't suspect would be open to that (being gay). I think it's really cool," Lam-

bert said. "I'm not consciously trying to change people's moral opinions on anything. I really am trying to focus on the music. And if as an indirect result, (people) are more open to different types of lifestyles, then that's awesome, I'm thrilled about that. But that's not my goal."

A handful of members of the infamously virulent and anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas picketed a show in San Jose, Calif., but it was barely noticed, Lambert said.

Lambert also takes an opportunity to bid adieu to Idol judge Paula Abdul, who recently announced she's not returning for Season 9 — "she will be greatly missed by the audience," said Lambert.

"That's false. That's been a big old rumour that the media kind of perpetuated," Lambert said.

Like Season 8 winner Chris Allen, Lambert is in fact on a project of his own, an as-yet untitled album set for release in November.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Mickey Rourke

Rourke takes The Wrestler to Sarajevo

FILM FEST The Sarajevo Film Festival opened yesterday, 15 years after it was launched as an act of defiance at the end of the 1992-95 Bosnian war and the siege of the city, hosting Hollywood stars such as Mickey Rourke.

The film *Tales from the Golden Age* by Cristian Mungiu, the first Romanian film director to win the Palme d'Or at Cannes, will open a festival that has become the largest such event in the Balkans and unique for promoting East European film.

Ten films from the region spreading from Austria in the West to Turkey in the East will compete this year for the 25,000 euro (\$35,370) Heart of Sarajevo award, some to be shown for the first time outside their countries.

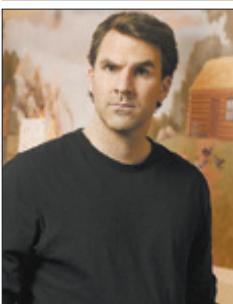
The most famous visitor will be Rourke, who will along with film director Darren Aronofsky and producer Scott Franklin present *The Wrestler*.

REUTERS

critics' corner

Parks and Recreation

Talking to the media does get easier with practice. Leslie (Amy Poehler) invites a reporter to do a story on the park project, but the interview doesn't go well — and it gets worse when she calls in Mark (Paul Schneider) to help. Tom (Aziz Ansari) attempts to score some points with his boss (Nick Offerman). Rashida Jones also stars in "The Reporter." 8:30 PM on 9 NBC



30 Rock

Workaholic Liz (Tina Fey) must find a way to occupy her time during a short-term suspension from work. Jack (Alec Baldwin) asks Jenna (Jane Krakowski)

to use her star power to create promotional buzz when the film studio has second thoughts about releasing her Janis Joplin biopic. Tracy Morgan and Jack McBrayer co-star in "Jackie Jompa-Jomp." 9:30 PM on 15 CITY 9 NBC

REUTERS

In brief

CASTING Oz alumnus Ernie Hudson has joined NBC's drama series *Heroes* in the recurring role of Captain Lubbock, a Baltimore detective. As usual, the show's producers are keeping story-line details under wraps, but it is understood that Lubbock is on the hunt for one of the other characters on the show.

ADAPTATION In its biggest development deal to date, cable network AMC has acquired the rights to Robert Kirkman's popular comic book *The Walking Dead* for a potential series. Frank Darabont (*The Shawshank Redemption*) is on board to write, direct and executive produce the project.

TV Warner Bros. is building a Lego movie. The studio and producer Dan Lin have acquired theatrical rights for a motion picture based on the timeless toy, and hired writers Dan and Kevin Hageman to pen the script.

REUTERS

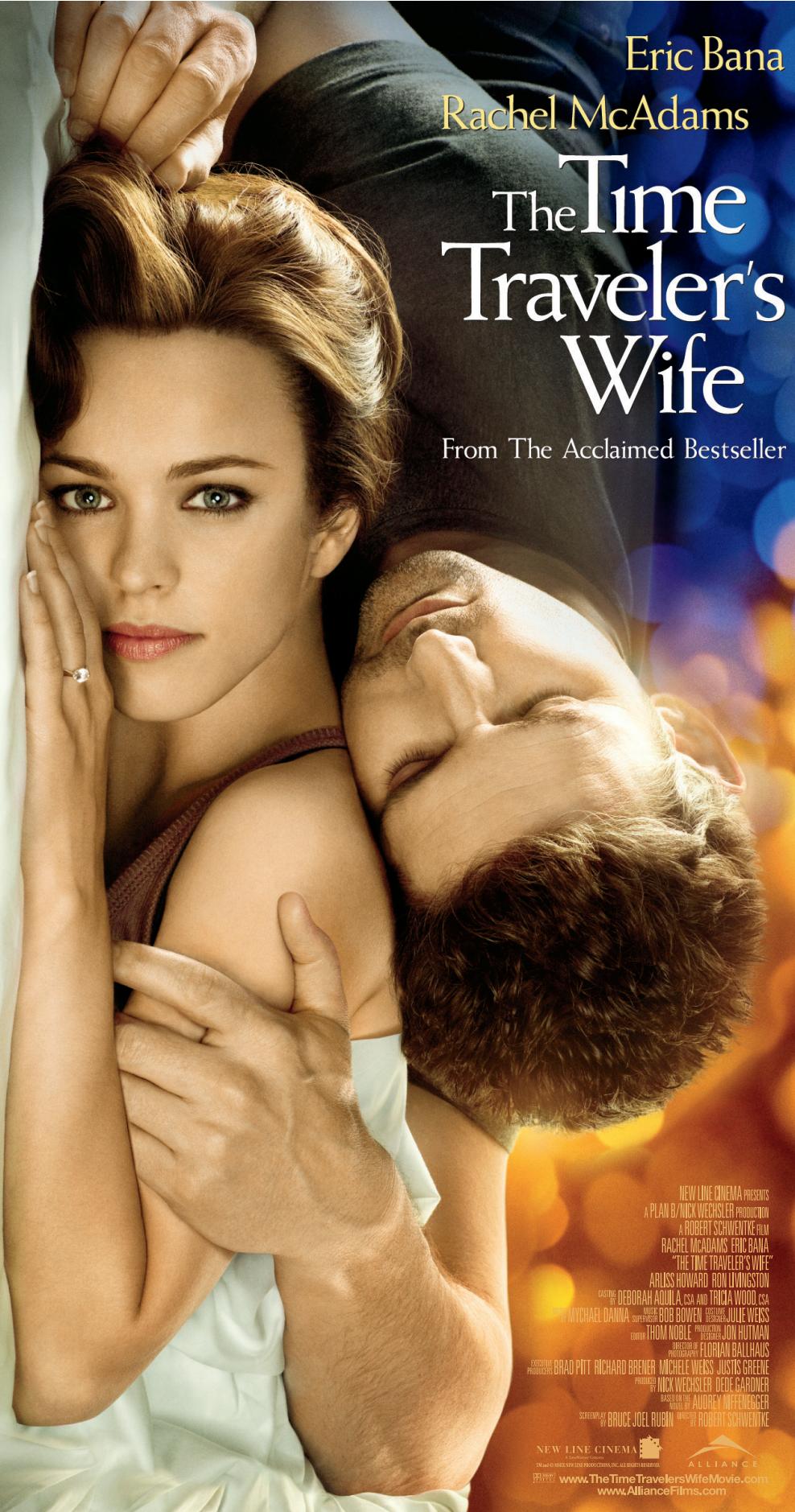
primetime

cable variety

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sports		-	363	13	CBS	Dr. Phil	Big Brother 11 (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	(10:01) The Mentalist	Two/Half Men			
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		214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	30 Rock	30 Rock	(10:01) Law & Order: UK (N)	News		
		115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)	Vivere II	Omni News: The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia	
		218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	El News	Name Is Earl	Til Death	True Hollywood Story	The Beast	News/Eleven	
		-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	Grey's Anatomy	(10:02) Private Practice	News		
		512	398	24	CAPC	Télé-à-tête	Beyond Poll	L'Heure politique	Dossier public	Heure polit.			
		651	355	25	CTS	Little House on the Prairie	Michael Corin Show	100 Huntley Street	Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee		
		-	365	36	FOX	TMI (N)	Seinfeld	Bones (HDTV PA)	House "Last Resort"	FOX 2 News (N)	News		
		-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Adirondack	Spirit-Wine	Time Goes By	Poldark	Charlie Rose		
family		209	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	CSI: NY "Bad Beat"	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	The Listener (N) (DVS)	News		
		502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Marketplace	The Hour	CBC News: The National	The Nature of Things	National		
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown	Generation Islam (N)	Generation Isl.	Generation Isl.			
		406	417	27	net	MMA Conn	NFL Preseason Football	New England Patriots at Philadelphia Eagles. (HDTV) (Live)		Sportsnet Con.			
		126	738	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Grands reportages (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal		
		400	280	30	TSN	Golf: PGA Championship	SportsCentre	CFL Pregame	CFL Football	Calgary Stampeders at Edmonton Eskimos. (HDTV) (Live)			
		410	403	52	SCR	Poker	When It Was a Game II	Poker Asian Pacific Tour.	Score Tonight	Final Score			
		411	457	56	OLN	Ghost Hunters	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Ghost Hunters	Bounty Hunter			
		417	408	59	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Jacked! (N)	Jacked! (N)	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	
		554	544	48	TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	Futurama	Akira *** (1988, Science Fiction) Voices of Mitsuo Iwata.				
variety		557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han, Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House
		551	542	65	YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life	Falcon Beach (DVS)	Mystery Hint.	
		570	581	29	MM	The Daily Fix	Ranked!	mmtop10.ca	Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix		
		615	524	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	The First 48 "Blindsided"	The First 48 (HDTV)	Crime 360 (HDTV) (N)	Crime 360			
		628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	UFC Unleashed	TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)		Police Chases			
		521	560	34	TLC	LA Ink (HDTV)	Lottery Changed My Life	Police Women of Broward	LA Ink (HDTV) (N)	Police Women			
		145	761	35	TV5	Comme chez	Hep! Taxi	Club social	Planète en question	Cité guide	Journal TV5		
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits	Love-Death	Love-Death		House			
		620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	Camera	The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz *** (1974, Comedy-Drama)	Bravonews	Law & Order			
		520	505	42	DIS	Blue Realm "Shark Divers" (N)	Mighty Ships	Somali Pirate Takedown	MythBusters	Blue Realm			
variety		575	583	43	CMT	Taylor Swift: One on One	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Tuckerville	
		601	562	45	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Last 10	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada	
		625	544	46	COM	Air Force	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Daily Show	
		294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Friends	Handyman Superstar	Friends	The Whole Ten Yards * (2004, Comedy)			
		600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes	
		627	528	50	SPC	The Listener (N) (DVS)	Star Trek: Voyager	Alien Agent (2007, Science Fiction)	Mark Dacascos.	Stargate SG-1			
		581	561	53	MIS	NCIS "Buried Your Dead"	MTV News	Cribs	True Life	Bea	Bea	MTV Live	
		129	773	60	CD	Alerte animale (HDTV)	Inside Hollywood	Deal or No Deal Canada	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Tuckerville	
		261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote	Wait for God	Ancient Discoveries	Unlocking the Past	NCIS "Buried Your Dead"	Sea Hunters		
		260	562	62	W	Style by Jury	Friends	Les Grands travaux (HDTV)	Docu-D (HDTV)	Un tuer si proche (HDTV)	Science du		
variety		269	350	63	APTN	Warriors: TKO	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List	House
		621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	TMZ (N)	renegadepress	Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy (1998, Romance-Comedy)	Potierge			
		603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Crash-Kitchen	Restaurant Makeover	Relative Madness	Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien	TMZ		
									Jamie's Kitchen	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Boys Weekend	

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PRODUCED BY NICK WECHSLER DEDE GARDNER
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Paula Abdul hasn't completely closed the door on returning to American Idol. The former judge reportedly will return to the show if producers agree to pay her \$10 million US a season, according to TMZ. METRO WORLD NEWS

Paula leaves Idol door open

Celebrity Buzz

Spears kids have potty mouths?

SOAP NEEDED Britney Spears' sons shocked onlookers by swearing in public, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer took three-year-old Sean Preston and Jayden James, two, to a swag suite — where invited guests are invited to select a variety of goods for free — for the Teen Choice Awards in Los Angeles last weekend when the boys repeatedly shouted "oh s—!"



One onlooker told the New York Daily News newspaper: "We were all surprised by their potty mouths, but it was actually pretty funny."

Although their bad language attracted the attention of those around them, Spears didn't appear to notice her sons were using offensive words.

The onlooker

added: "She was too busy picking out freebies to chastise the boys for misbehaving."

Spears, 27, has previously spoken about her children cursing, claiming they picked up the foul phrases from their father, her ex-husband Kevin Federline.

She said: "The boys are starting to learn words like 'stupid,' and Preston says the F-word now sometimes. He doesn't get it from us. He must get it from his daddy. I say it, but not around my kids."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brangelina spill sexy secret

TOO MUCH INFORMATION

Last week Brad Pitt sent tongues wagging when he told Parade that the secret stone grotto behind the waterfall in his pool is "a great place for sex." Now, his partner Angelina Jolie says that's not their only secret hideaway, usmagazine.com reports.

"Yeah, well, we got a few special places," she told Extra on the red carpet at Pitt's Inglourious Basterds premiere in Hollywood. "You keep it going."

Added Pitt, "It's not true. We have far more comfortable places to

go. There is a grotto there. It's an old Hollywood property... just a few minutes that way... and rumour is Jimi Hendrix spent some time there. That's the story. I run with it."

But Pitt did cop to



saying he wouldn't wed Jolie until all couples were allowed to marry legally.

"I did say that," he said. "So now I'm stuck with it." He also said he and Jolie

"rarely, rarely" fight.

"We both have been around long enough and have been in enough relationships to know what we want out of it to know when we're wasting time," he said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stars gather to mourn John Hughes

REMEMBERING A GREAT Actors Vince Vaughn, Matthew Broderick and Ben Stein were among the family and friends who attended a private funeral Tuesday in a Chicago suburb for the late director John Hughes, usmagazine.com reports.

Stein, who famously played Ferris Bueller's teacher in the '80s classic comedy, was one of the speakers at the service. He said it was "very touching" and that there was "a lot of crying."

"We'll never see his like again," Stein told reporters after the service. "He was the Wordsworth of the suburban America post-war generation. He was a great, great, great genius and as much of a friend and a great family man as he was a poet."

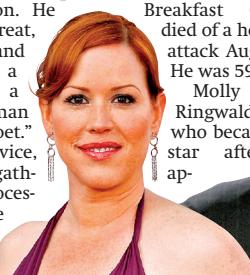
After the service, mourners gathered in a procession to a Lake Forest cemetery, where

Hughes was to be laid to rest.

Hughes, known for such teen classics as Sixteen Candles and The Breakfast Club,

died of a heart attack Aug. 6. He was 59.

Molly Ringwald, who became a star after ap-



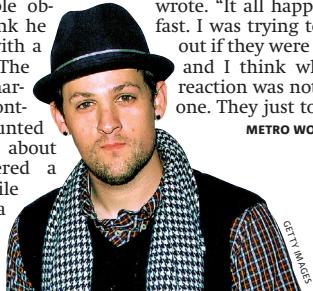
pearing in Sixteen Candles in 1984, said she "was stunned and incredibly sad to hear about the death of John Hughes."

"He will be missed — by me and by everyone that he has touched," she added in a statement shortly after his death. "My heart and all my thoughts are with his family now."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

For sale: One baby

THE SURREAL While Joel Madden eagerly awaits the birth of his second child with Nicole Richie, some people obviously think he could do with a third. The Good Charlotte frontman recounted on Twitter about being offered a baby while stopped at a red light in his car. "Today



some people in traffic tried to sell me a baby. A live human baby. I didn't know what to say," he wrote. "It all happened so fast. I was trying to figure out if they were serious, and I think when my reaction was not a good one. They just took off."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Sienna finally lands single man

ON THE RIGHT TRACK Sienna Miller has reportedly found a new man, a DJ named George Barker, according to the Mirror.

The pair attended a private party last week and are said to be planning a vacation together.

"Sienna and George is still a pretty casual, low-rent thing but they're both really happy," a source told the newspaper.

"He's also single, which is a massive coup."

METRO WORLD NEWS

All my success could go: Ashton

KEEPING IT REAL Ashton Kutcher has enjoyed tremendous success, but he's still worried he could lose it all at any moment.

"You never know what happens in this business. What we do for a living is nonsense. It's entertainment," the actor tells the New York Post. "I still haven't bought myself anything special with my earnings. I can't even think what I've treated myself to. Actually, I haven't spent anything. I've kept it all."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Doug Reinhardt knows just what to do to get back in Paris Hilton's good graces: Rent a private island in Fiji.

"Love Wadigi Island, had the most incredible stay," Hilton posted on Twitter after returning from a visit

with Reinhardt. "It is true paradise, so beautiful and private. It's the perfect place to vacation."

And friends say Reinhardt's attempt to rekindle things with

his ex is working great. "She loves being treated like a princess so she can feel how deeply in love he is with her, and she's having a blast," a source told the Sun.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Paris and Doug kiss and make up

IT'S BACK ON Doug Reinhardt knows just what to do to get back in Paris Hilton's good graces: Rent a private island in Fiji.

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METRO WORLD NEWS

Kate and A-Rod ready to have baby?

RUSHING THINGS? Kate Hudson is reportedly so happy with Alex Rodriguez that she even wants to have a child with the Yankees slugger. Hudson already has a five-year-old son, Ry-

der, from her marriage to Black Crowes frontman Chris Robinson.

"Kate just turned 30 and she's ready to have her second child," a source said, according to Hollyscoop. "She

wants Ryder to have a sibling, so she brought up the idea to Alex and told him that they would make a beautiful baby together, and that she would assume all financial responsibility."

METRO WORLD NEWS



More evidence of Brad and Renée

PLAIN TO SEE Renée Zellweger and Bradley Cooper aren't doing a good job of hiding their fling while on vacation.

Photographers caught the pair strolling through a hotel lobby in Barcelona. Cooper placed a hand on Zellweger's behind, the Daily Mail reports. She responded by placing a hand into his back pocket.

They were later spotted embracing while visiting a church.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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